

GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS AUTHORITY



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AGENDA

May 28th, 2026 at 1:30 pm

Wastewater Treatment Plant

2350 Ivanrest Ave SW - Wyoming

1. Call to Order at 1:37pm

Members/Alternates in attendance:

Aaron Vis, James Ouzts, Wayne Jernberg, Myron Erickson. Meeting has quorum.

Non-members in attendance:

Jon Burke, Kevin Lynch, Carly Aller, Mike Rummelt, Andrew Meyer, Robert Carlstrom, Tai Verbrugge, Doug Matthews, Miguel Hernandez

2. Approval of Minutes from April 30th, 2026 Meeting

Motion: Approve minutes as is.

Motion: Wayne Jernberg

Second: Aaron Vis

Vote: All in favor - Motion Carried

3. Public Comments

No comments

4. Ops Team Report – Mike Rummelt

- Land application: Wyoming had 470 dry tons hauled and applied in April.
- Storage: 500k gallons currently stored.
- Wyoming sent 1.7M gallons to Grand Rapids in April.
- Solids averaged 22%, with recovery just under 99%.
- VFD issues at dewatering, being resolved and expected to be completed next week.
- Budget: Performing well, summary and detail provided.
- Sump pump quote pending from AMS.
- Discussion regarding missing landfill numbers and invoice clarifications:
 - Aaron Vis noted missing data for fiscal year-end.

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- Andrew Meyer commented that updates through March are reported in the collaboration SharePoint.
- Myron Erickson asked about invoice true-up details, shown as \$149,000 in the May column.

Report received and placed on file.

5. Discussion Topics

- Discuss TAG Team – James Ouzts
 - i. Discussion comments:
 1. Myron Erickson: historically no board members on TAG.
 2. Wayne Jernberg: prefers at least one board member for representation.
 3. Prior TAG was too large, need a manageable team.

TAG Committee (Established):

Wyoming: Aaron Vis, Jon Burke, Kevin Lynch

Grand Rapids: Mike Rummelt, Bert Carlstrom, James Ouzts

- Republic 3-Month Extension Offer – Andrew Meyer

Republic reported that available landfill space is running low, and prices are expected to increase soon. The existing contract is approaching its end, and Republic had initially said a proposal would arrive by May 20th. Only a short-term 3-month extension was received, with no long-term written commitments.

 - i. Extension comments:
 1. Appears to be identical to a prior extension.
 2. No price increase during the 90-day period.
 3. Allows service to continue through October 1, 2026, giving the board some time to evaluate disposal options.
 - ii. Alternative comments:
 1. GVRBA primarily uses the Coopersville landfill (owned by Republic).
 2. Additional Republic sites: Pearson and Marshall.
 3. Other options:
 - a. Cordes – charges by the mile to various landfills.
 - b. Waste Management – historically 40% more expensive than Republic.
 4. Quantity limits for landfill acceptance are unknown, Republic has not specified new limits.

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5. If capacity is reduced, GVRBA could be forced into an emergency situation.
 6. Landfills limit wet waste due to slope shear concerns.
 7. If landfill disposal becomes unavailable, the only backup would be land application, which depends on testing and approvals.
 8. Vicinity Energy Partnership
 - a. Doug Matthews provided context regarding Vicinity's interest and long-term vision:
 - i. They are exploring a waste-to-energy campus concept, integrating biosolids disposal, heat recovery, and energy generation.
 - ii. Their ideal timeline is 5 years, not immediate.
 9. Ottawa County
 - a. Ottawa County is working with EGLE on a biosolids drying project to create fuel.
 - b. TAG to look into this as an option.
- iii. Final comments:
1. The board discussed whether to rebid the disposal contract
 - a. GVRBA does not operate sole-source contracts.
 - b. Waste Management has consistently tried to win business, could have them under contract as a redundancy option
 2. Regional partnerships
 - a. Potential co-op agreements with nearby cities, but existing issues (Zeeland restrictions) limit feasibility.
 3. The board agreed that bid specifications need to be prepared by July, so competitive bidding can begin if needed.

Motion: Accept Republic's 3-month extension.

Motion: Myron Erickson

Second: Wayne Jernberg

Vote: All in favor – Motion Carried to Adjourn

6. Board Member Comments
 - Aaron Vis: No comments.
 - Myron Erickson: No comments.
 - James Ouzts: No comments.
 - Wayne Jernberg: No comments.
7. Reminder of meeting June 25th, 2026

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8. Adjournment at 2:10pm

Motion: James Ouzts

Second: Myron Erickson

Vote: All in favor – Motion Carried to Adjourn